



Dear Parents/Carers

Restart Plan for September 2020: Nursery

Our Restart Plan provides information about our arrangements for reopening the school to pupils in September 2020. It is important to note however, that the Public Health advice at the time of reopening will prevail over any of the planning assumptions we have made in our Restart Plan. The Covid-19 virus continues to have profound implications for society and we may need to adjust our plans to address any issues that may arise as the children return to school.

This plan sets out some general points about the arrangements for restarting school. There is also some information which relates specifically to the return of children in Nursery and this is included under the heading 'Arrangements for Nursery Pupils'.

Supporting Children to Return to School

We want to ensure that the children are excited and relaxed about starting Nursery. After such a prolonged period of lock down, it is possible that some children may feel increased levels of anxiety arising from having to leave their family/home and return to Nursery/day care setting. It is important we work together to alleviate any such issues. Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Rogan to discuss any concerns you may have. The return to school will involve some new routines and we will ensure these are all explained to the children when they start.

If you have a child who is clinically, extremely vulnerable please contact Mrs Rogan in the week beginning Monday 24th August to discuss his/her individual needs.

Hand Hygiene

Children should be reminded of the significance of hand hygiene in preventing the spread of the Covid-19 virus. To prepare children for restarting school, you should ensure that they know how to wash their hands properly for at least twenty seconds with soap and water. This will be particularly important for younger children. When the children return to school we will be asking them to wash their hands regularly throughout the school day.

'Catch It, Bin It, Kill It'

Please explain the importance of good respiratory hygiene to your children and encourage them to follow the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach. Children should be discouraged from

touching their eyes, face, nose and mouth. Please show them how to cough or sneeze into their elbow if they do not have a tissue. When using a tissue, they should be shown how to cough or sneeze into it and then dispose of it safely into the nearest bin. Your help in building a level of routine in relation to respiratory hygiene would be much appreciated.

Social Distancing for Pupils

It is acknowledged that young children cannot reasonably be expected to remain apart from each other throughout the day and that children flourish mentally, physically and emotionally through interactive play. However, to mitigate the risk of virus spread, each Nursery group will be organised as a 'protective bubble'.

Maintaining protective bubbles is a means of decreasing interactions between children and adults from different classes until a further easing of measures is possible based on Public Health advice.

Social Distancing for Parents

It is important that appropriate social distancing is observed among parents/carers when children are entering/exiting the school grounds. We have not staggered the start/finish times for each Year Group in order to minimise disruption for families who have children in different Year Groups. However, we will monitor the situation and, if the planned arrangements are causing congestion and resulting in too many interactions around the entry/exit points, we will consider introducing staggered times for each Year Group's arrival/departure from the site.

We must all accept our collective responsibility to prevent virus spread. Whilst we understand the importance of connecting socially with other members of the school community, we strongly advise parents/carers not to congregate around the site. It is important to be aware that should a cluster of cases of the virus be identified in our school community, then St Joseph's could be instructed to close for a period of time in accordance with the Public Health requirements for preventing transmission of the virus. It is essential that each of us does everything we can to prevent such an eventuality arising.

In order to keep the number of adults coming on to the school site to a minimum, it is recommended that only one parent/carer should escort the children from their household to school. Where children are capable of making their own way independently to and from their classroom/ supervised muster point, they should be encouraged to do so and parents should only escort them as far as the school gates.

We appreciate that on the first day of school for Nursery and Primary One pupils more than one adult may wish to accompany the child. However, after the initial induction meeting has taken place, we would ask parents to adhere to the recommendation for only one adult to accompany children to and from school.

Traffic Management

The school has a Traffic Management Plan the aim of which is to keep the site a safe place for all users. Parents/carers are asked to note that, in the current circumstances, there may be an increase in the number of pupils walking/cycling to and from school. Therefore, you

should exercise extreme care and attention when driving into and exiting from the Parish Hall and Church car parks. Signs notifying users of 5mph speed limits are clearly displayed. All drivers are asked to adhere to that limit and to show courtesy and consideration to other car park users. Parking indiscriminately, such as mounting pavements, double parking, stopping on yellow lines, obstructing access points and parking near junctions causes danger to pupils and other road users.

Please note, spaces in the Parish Hall car park may fill up quickly at drop off/pick up times so we would encourage as many parents/carers as possible to use the Church car park. This will also help with social distancing.

Wearing of PPE

Under current DE guidance, the general wearing of face coverings in school is not recommended for children or adults. School staff may, on occasions, wear items of PPE which might include wearing visors and/or gloves and/or an apron and/or a mask if they are giving first aid to a child, assisting a child with toileting or if the staff member's own personal circumstances requires additional protective measures to be taken in certain situations.

Children Showing Symptoms of COVID-19

If your child has any symptoms of having the Covid-19 virus he/she should stay at home and your household should isolate in accordance with the latest Public Health advice. Symptoms include: raised temperature, persistent cough, loss of taste and loss of smell.

It might be helpful to take your children's temperatures to ensure they are normal before children are brought to school each day. There is a set procedure which schools must follow if a child presents as being unwell while in school. He/she will be brought to an isolation room and his/her parent/carer will be required to collect the child from school.

If there is a confirmed case of someone in the school having the Covid-19 virus the school will adhere to the Department of Health's 'Test, Trace and Protect' strategy. This requires the early identification of such cases, rapid testing, tracing of close contacts and isolation to break transmission chains. In order to ensure we have accurate records of everyone who has been in contact with anyone who tests positive, it will be necessary for us to record the name and contact details of everyone who enters the school buildings even if it is only for a short time. This will include any parent visiting the school for an appointment with a member of staff.

School Uniform

Initially, Nursery pupils should wear their uniform as normal. Mrs Rogan will advise parents accordingly if there is any reason why this should change.

School Bags and Other Items

Initially, children **should not** bring schoolbags, pencil cases, toys or other items to school. Staff will provide any items they may need while they are at school.

We will explain the arrangements for home learning when school reopens and we will give consideration to how books/worksheets etc. can be transferred between home and school. Mrs Rogan will provide more information on this in due course.

Payments and Cash Handling

It has not yet been possible to implement cashless payment procedures for school meals or other school activities. Therefore, we would ask that payments should, where possible, be made by cheque. If you are sending cash to school, we would ask you to place it in an envelope or wrapping which is labelled clearly showing what the payment is for. Please try to ensure that the correct amount of money is provided in order to reduce the requirement to give change. This will improve efficiency and may also help to reduce potential spread of the virus.

Arrangements for Nursery Pupils

Start Date: Individual Induction meetings have been scheduled for each child in the weeks beginning 1/09/20 and 7/09/20. Parents will be provided with an attendance schedule for their child at these meetings.

Morning/Afternoon Drop off: 8:50am and 12:20pm:

- Parents will escort their children to Nursery via the main access pathway which runs along the perimeter of the Nursery site.
- Parents/carers should enter through the wooden gate which leads into the play area. Nursery staff will supervise access and egress at this point.
- Entry to the Nursery building will be via the playroom fire doors.
- Parents/carers are asked to drop off and to leave the site as quickly as possible. Staff will have procedures in place to support children who are finding it difficult to settle
- Parents/carers should exit through the wooden entrance/exit gate
- Parents/carers should leave the Nursery site via the steps. This is to implement a 'one way' flow as far as possible. We understand that this may not be practical if accompanied by very young children who require the use of a pushchair. In such cases, parents/carers may retrace their entry route back up the main Nursery pathway. We would ask that you show due care and attention to each other by respecting the social distancing requirements and, where possible, by giving way to oncoming adults/children.

Morning/Afternoon Pick Up: 11:20am and 2:50pm

- Parents/carers will enter the Nursery via the main access pathway which runs along the perimeter of the Nursery site
- Parents/carers should then enter through the wooden gate which leads into the play area. Nursery staff will supervise access/egress at this point
- Parents/carers will be able to observe appropriate levels of social distancing by spacing themselves out around the perimeter of the play area
- Children will be released from a central point and will exit through the wooden gate

- Parents/carers should leave the Nursery site using the steps in order to implement a 'one way' flow as far as possible. We understand that this may not be practical if accompanied by very young children who require the use of a pushchair. In such cases, parents/carers may retrace their entry route back up the main Nursery pathway. We would ask that you show due care and attention to each other by respecting the social distancing requirements and, where possible, by giving way to oncoming adults/children

This plan and the precautions set out in it have been put in place to help stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus and to ensure that we all take responsibility for this. These arrangements will be kept under review and any changes will be communicated to you as appropriate.

Yours sincerely

Dominic Donnelly



Entrance/Exit Gate. Nursery staff will supervise access and egress from the Nursery site at this point

Nursery Outdoor play area. Pupils should be dropped off and picked up here at the start and end of each session.

Steps for exiting the Nursery site. Where possible, parents are asked to exit the Nursery site via the steps. This is to facilitate a 'one way' flow to and from the Nursery site as far as possible.

Access to Nursery is via this pathway. Those parents/carers who are accompanied by children in pushchairs may also use this pathway to exit the Nursery site. Please observe social distancing by giving way to oncoming adults/children.

Vehicle parking zone for Nursery. Vehicular access to the site is strictly limited and is only by prior agreement with the Principal. Parents/carers should consult the school's Traffic Management Plan for further information.

Pedestrian Entrance

